

Tim Pawlenty
Majority Leader

District 38B
Dakota County



Minnesota House of Representatives

COMMITTEES: CHAIR, RULES AND LEGISLATIVE ADMINISTRATION

January 28, 2002

Ms. Renata B. Hesse
Antitrust Division
U.S. Department of Justice
601 D Street NW
Suite 1200
Washington, D.C. 20530-0001

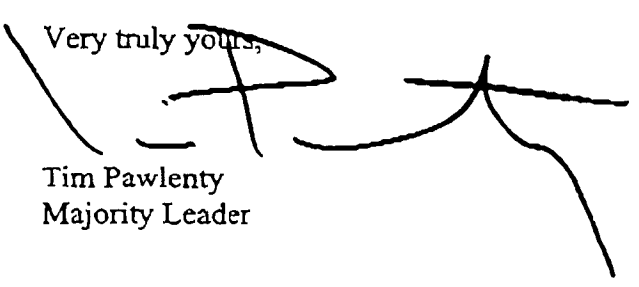
Dear Ms. Hesse:

I applaud the leadership displayed by the Department of Justice and the nine Attorneys General for developing the proposed Microsoft settlement agreement that balances the protection of consumer interests and the competitive process.

I believe that this settlement will preserve Microsoft's ability to innovate and engage in normal procompetitive activities, critical during our nation's current economic recession. At the same time, the settlement is a win for consumers, with its broad scope of prohibitions and obligations imposed on Microsoft. It will certainly require substantial changes in the way that Microsoft does business. It imposes significant costs on the company and entails an unprecedented degree of oversight. Furthermore, the agreement strikes an appropriate balance within the technology industry, providing opportunities and protections for firms seeking to compete while allowing Microsoft to continue to innovate and bring new technologies to market.

This reasonable settlement will help consumers, the industry, and the economy to move forward.

Very truly yours,


Tim Pawlenty
Majority Leader